



Let construction begin

The beautiful renderings of the Tempe Center for the Arts (TCA) promise a stunning structure that will house an incredible resource for artists, performers and art patrons. It will be a work of art on its own, shining in splendor from Tempe Town Lake's southwest bank.

It's almost impossible to contain the excitement for two years as crews work to construct the facility. Until doors open and curtains rise, enthusiasts must revel in the visible construction milestones that will occur as the facility begins taking shape.

Since May, fans of the Center have been able to watch as a crane hoists and moves heavy objects, reflecting the flurry of activity below as crews began excavation for the Theater. In June, crews are scheduled to

install sewer and water lines and form and pour the walls to the orchestra pit.

"The orchestra pit is crucial. It's sort of the center of the project from which everything evolves," Cultural Facilities Administrator Don Fassinger said.

Once the walls to the "pit" are finished, construction of the orchestra lift can begin. The lift, which allows the Theater stage apron to rise and lower, interfaces with many trades and is crucial to keeping the project on schedule.

Come July, crews will begin pouring footings for the main stage house of the Theater. Then, in mid to late August, the walls to the fly tower will rise to about 85 feet, and will be the first sizable structure visible from a distance.

While all of the construction is taking place, city staff will be working on policy and procedures for use of the facility, rental schedules, box office software analysis and other operational requirements.

[Tempe Art Talk will continue to keep patrons updated on the construction process in future editions.](#)

